

NOXIOUS WEED

Department Overview

The Noxious Weed Fund tracks the costs incurred by the Gallatin County Noxious Weed District. The Noxious Weed District is administered by the Noxious Weed Board, which is appointed by the County Commission. The Board hires a Noxious Weed Manager who is responsible for the control of weeds that have been identified and adopted as Noxious Weeds within Gallatin County.

The Noxious Weed Board and its Manager have identified four essential components of a successful county noxious weed management department. These components are:

- A management program of noxious weed treatment on County and municipal properties.
- An education program to provide information and technical assistance to county residents regarding noxious weed management on their property.
- An enforcement program to contact landowners (both private and public) regarding uncontrolled noxious weed infestations on their property.
- A cooperative management program between Federal, State and County agencies and municipalities

Each Component of the program reinforces, strengthens and contributes to the success of the other components.

To meet the needs of these components the District is:

- COUNTY PROPERTY - Seasonal spray crews treating all county properties for noxious weeds and assisting municipalities on critical needs basis.
 - ENFORCEMENT - Emphasizing follow up on complaints from previous year, investigating new verbal and written complaints as received.
 - EDUCATION - Conducting small acreage inspections, weekend weed pulls, seminars, participate tradeshow, conduct homeowner's weed meetings, initiate WMA grants to educate and assist county residents in controlling their noxious weeds.
 - COOPERATIVE - Conducting annual Weed Summit between public agencies to coordinate weed management efforts throughout public lands located in the county.
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Department Goals

- Act as coordinating agency for noxious weed management with Federal, State, County, local agencies and the public.
 - Manage noxious weeds on all county owned properties.
 - Conduct PROACTIVE program to increase public awareness and on-the-ground management of noxious weeds with small acreage landowners.
 - Conduct PROACTIVE program to increase compliance with noxious weed law.
 - Establish process and funding mechanism for effective, cost efficient subdivision reviews and follow up.
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Recent Accomplishments

- Managed noxious weeds on 1,100 lane miles of road, 40 county parks, 8 county gravel pits, Law and Justice Center and Fairgrounds.
- Initiated Frog Rock WMA (Bozeman Pass area) and Upper Madison WMA (West Yellowstone). The WMAs are coordinated efforts of weed management between Federal, State and County agencies and private landowners. Participants in the WMAs include Forest Service, Yellowstone National Park, State Lands, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Montana Rail Link, and over 200 private landowners. The Weed District was awarded a \$10,800 NWTF grant to assist landowners within the Frog Rock WMA and a \$35,000 grant to assist landowners within the Upper Madison WMA.
- Worked in coordination with Big Sky Weed Committee to assist landowners in the Big Sky area with noxious weed management. Hired area Education Coordinator through grant.
- Completed three cooperative spray projects with MDT (Rocky Creek, Gallatin Canyon, West Yellowstone).
- Processed 39 subdivision Weed Management and Revegetation Plans and 32 subdivision Memoranda of Understandings'.
- Concluded 130 complaints for violations of the noxious weed law.
- Participated in Farm Fair (May) in which 600 plus 4th grade school children attended.
- Conducted annual county Weed Summit for public agencies: Summit focused on (1) developing interagency small acreage specialist (2) identifying cooperative treatment projects (3) consolidating weed-mapping standards (4) developing interagency Weed District/municipality weed management programs.

PUBLIC WORKS

NOXIOUS WEED

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure			Projected		Request FY 2009	Preliminary FY 2009
	Actual FY 2007	Final FY 2008	Actual FY 2008	Baseline FY 2009		
Personnel	\$ 203,474	\$ 274,403	\$ 263,082	\$ 253,284	\$ 253,785	\$ 259,862
Operations	98,121	127,192	98,298	120,482	130,528	127,982
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	23,614	40,000	14,339	-	12,000	10,200
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 325,209	\$ 441,595	\$ 375,719	\$ 358,451	\$ 396,313	\$ 398,044

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	325,209	441,595	375,719	358,451	396,313	398,044
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 325,209	\$ 441,595	\$ 375,719	\$ 358,451	\$ 396,313	\$ 398,044

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 219,111	\$ 290,102	\$ 287,915	\$ 290,102	\$ 290,102	\$ 290,102
Non-Tax Revenues	66,272	69,300	30,080	43,300	43,300	43,300
Cash Reappropriated	39,826	82,193	57,724	25,049	62,911	64,642
Total	\$ 325,209	\$ 441,595	\$ 375,719	\$ 358,451	\$ 396,313	\$ 398,044

Department Personnel

Personnel Summary

No	FT/PT	Title	FTE
1	Full-Time	Weed District Coordinator	1.00
1	Full-Time	Administrative Secretary I	1.00
1	Full-Time	Enforcement/Education Coordinator	1.00
1	Seasonal	Crew Foreman	
8	Seasonal	Spray Technicians	
1	Seasonal	Big Sky Education Coordinator	
1	Seasonal	GYCC Gravel Pit Inspector	

Total Program FTE 3.00

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2009 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Awarded funds from Big Sky resort tax program to employ seasonal Education Coordinator for Big Sky WMA
- Awarded funds from GYCC to employ seasonal gravel pit inspector

Operations

- Weed District is requesting additional \$10,000 to purchase additional herbicide to implement limited boom spray program per requests of county agriculture producers
- Weed District is not requesting additional funds for fuel. In the past two years, per the vehicle replacement schedule, the District has obtained two spray trucks of larger tank capacity (from 150 to 400 gallon tanks). This has reduced travel trips to and from the shop. Reduced trips has offset the increased fuel costs.

Capital

- Weed District is requesting purchase of additional vehicle per vehicle replacement schedule. This vehicle will be a midsize SUV or compact sized pickup truck used as transportation for crew foreman, enforcement coordinator, district coordinator and as a safety flagging vehicle.

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the county government. Listed below are the County Commission's goals, followed by the methods by which the Extension Services is striving to fulfill those goals.

Exceptional Customer Service

- Manage and treat noxious weeds on County properties including road system, gravel pits, selected unimproved parks, Regional Park, Fairgrounds, and Law & Justice Center.
- Provide technical assistance and information to county residents.
- Provide sprayer rental program to county residents at a nominal cost.
- Resolve reports of noxious weeds located on county property within three working days.
- Initiate enforcement process on complaints of noxious weeds located on private lands.
- Assist municipalities with on-the-ground management and treatment of noxious weeds on a critical need basis.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Set the "gold standard" for management of noxious weeds on county properties.
- Coordinate noxious weed management on public lands between Federal, State and County agencies.

Improve Communications

- Increase public awareness and assistance for on-the-ground management of noxious weeds with small acreage landowners.
- Increase compliance with noxious weed law.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Plan for new weed shop/office complex off Baxter, West of Jackrabbit.
- Provide a safe work environment.

PUBLIC WORKS

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WORKLOAD INDICATORS/PERFORMANCE MEASURERS

Workload Indicators	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Projected
Indicator	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
1 . Request for educational seminars/onsite inspections	75	175	175	175
2 . Number of weed law enforcement actions completed	25	25	130	130.00
3 . Number of WMP and MOU reviewed/processed	93	124	71	50
4 . County Land Management activities (acres)	8,600	9,500	9,500	9,500
5 . Request to organize Weed Management Areas	2	4	4	5
6 . Number of gravel pits enrolled in certification program	-	-	-	5

Performance Measures	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Projected
Measure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
1 . Respond to educational seminars as requested	15%	85%	100%	100%
2 . Respond to on-site inspections as requested	15%	85%	100%	100%
3 . Monitor and insure compliance of completion of subdivision weed management plans	15%	50%	50%	50%
4 . Control noxious weeds on county right-of-ways twice a year	100%	100%	100%	100%
5 . Control noxious weeds on "other" county property yearly	33%	85%	85%	100%
6 . Reactive response (public generated) to noncompliance	30%	85%	100%	100%
7 . Proactive response (dept generated) to noncompliance	5%	50%	85%	100%

Comments